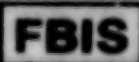


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20 June 1980

Near East/North Africa Report

No. 2137



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20 June 1980

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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THE INTERNATIONAL GAME IN THE ARAB WORLD

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10-16 Mar 80 pp 11-13

[Article: "The Imminent American Strike--Will It Be the Gulf Option, or the Maghrib Option? What Is the Reaction of Saudi Arabia and the Smaller Gulf States?"]

[Throughout this article, the term "Middle East" is used to designate the Near East area of the Arab-Israeli confrontation and excludes the region of the Arabian Gulf]

[Text] Ever since Afghanistan fell into the grip of the Soviet Union as a result of the military intervention of Moscow in Kabul, the anxiety which has robbed America of its sleep is this: how should it react to the Afghan situation?

American apprehension was sharpened because the loss of Afghanistan came only a short time after the loss of Iran and the rise of an Islamic republic there on the debris of a system known for its extreme allegiance to the United States of America.

From Iran to Afghanistan, it appeared as if there was a wide, blazing circle, and that the planners of American policy would find themselves compelled to react to its dangers. These are dangers which could be sands moving against them, or sands moving against the Soviets. However, the question of who will be harmed most will be determined by the American move in reaction to the two changes in Iran and Afghanistan.

It appears that American foreign policy has placed two conflicting options on its agenda. America is now feeling the pulse [of other nations] to discover which of the two options would be more effective, which of the two reactions would be swifter and stronger, and which would be more likely to gain a broad base of allies and friends on the regional and international levels. To be more precise, [at stake is] the position of the countries of Western Europe, particularly France, and the position of the Arab Gulf nations, particularly Saudi Arabia. Which of the two options will the U.S. take?

The Gulf Option

It is no longer a secret that the Gulf has become a target of American moves. Military activity, not to mention the warnings and public statements of a number of American officials, led by President Jimmy Carter himself, would indicate that the U.S. is taking the option of action in the Gulf.

The reasoning behind this choice is that the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan is an aggressive step the purpose of which is to advance toward the Gulf and fulfil the old Czarist dream of reaching warm waters, especially as the Socialist bloc is experiencing an increasing deficiency in sources of energy.

Pursuing this option requires pacification of the two other fronts in the Arab world, namely the Arab Maghrib [Sahara war] front, and the Middle East [Arab-Israeli] front. It is said in this respect that there are many indications suggesting that an American effort is under way to pacify the situation in the Arab Maghrib and the Middle East, so as to concentrate on the Gulf.

The Maghrib and the Middle East

American policy generally works for each day, as if America were going to die tomorrow, and works for tomorrow as if America were going to live forever [This sentence is structured along the lines of an Islamic exhortation to man to conduct his affairs in such a way as to be ready for two eventualities, namely immediate death or a long life]. In modern political parlance, this means that the United States leaves the door open for every possible option which American planners may in the end decide upon as a final solution. Operating on this basis, America injects some elements of pacification in the Middle East and the Maghrib, so that if it should decide on open confrontation in the Gulf, the stage would be set to serve this purpose. At the same time, America injects some elements of provocation in the Maghrib and the Middle East, so that if it ultimately decides on arranging for a compromise in the Gulf, and pursuing open confrontation in the Maghrib and the Middle East, the stage would be set for this course of action too.

The article recently written by Mr Andrew Young, the former representative of the United States to the United Nations, who is known for his sympathy with the Asian and African nations, especially the African, perhaps gives expression to the American desire to pacify the Maghrib situation. Andrew Young wants a settlement to be reached on the Western Sahara, and does not want the Maghrib--of whose friendship with Washington Young is certain--to perish in a labyrinth of rearmament and war.

It has become well-known that there is an important line of thought in the American administration stressing the need not to bet too high on the struggles of the Arab Maghrib, be they between Libya and Tunisia or between Algeria and Morocco. Such struggles only serve to widen the gap between Libya and Algeria on the one hand and the U.S. on the other, and lead

these two countries, which will maintain excellent economic and petroleum relations with Washington, to necessarily fall into the arms of the Soviets.

In the Middle East, analogous views are at work as indicated by the recent activity of Jordanian diplomacy. King Hussein has visited both London and Bucharest, and has met with Rumanian leader Ceaurescu, who is known to be one of the proponents of a Middle East settlement in coordination with the U.S.

Rapprochement Between the 2 Yemens

It is likewise said that the flexibility demonstrated by President Ilyas Sarkis in dealing with the problems of the withdrawal of the Arab deterrent forces from Beirut and the deployment of the Lebanese army to take their place, fits into this pattern. This is supported by the fact that the Lebanese president had originally reacted with a stubborn devil-may-care attitude following the announcement of the Syrian move, before consulting with his international allies.

The Gulf option means in the last analysis taking aim at the Democratic Republic of Yemen. This recently took the form of media allegations about participation of Yemeni forces in the Afghani war on the side of the Soviets.

It appears that the Soviet Union, which understands the importance of this danger, inspired the south Yeminis to hasten to improve their relations (originally excellent) with their neighbors in the north. For its part, the Soviet Union undertook to secretly advise Riyadh that the effort to improve relations between San'a and Aden is not directed against Saudi Arabia, but is a defensive step in preparation for an expected American strike.

Of course, to further reassure the Saudis, the Soviets told them that the Saudi kingdom itself would not be safe from such an American attack. The Soviets also reminded the Saudis of the whole series of threats which have emanated from Washington since 1974 to occupy the Arab oil wells.

Nevertheless, Saudi anxiety doubled on news that the conservative government in the north and the Marxist government in the south had agreed on political cooperation on the basis of an agreement between San'a and the northern Yemeni opposition, accommodated in Aden, to form a northern Yemeni coalition government including Sultan Ahmad 'Umar, who is loyal to Aden and who leads the "National Democratic Front" in North Yemen.

An Israeli Attack on Syria?

But the option to take aim at the Gulf does not necessarily mean pursuing pacification in the Middle East. It might be felt that it is sufficient to pacify the Arab Maghrib before setting off explosions in the Gulf which would inevitably spread to the Middle East.

AL-DUSTUR has received information that an Eastern government sees grave danger in the movements of King Hussein and the apparent flexibility of President Sarkis. Sources within this Arab government believe that the Middle East is on the verge of a great explosion in which Israel would embark on an assault on Syria, just as Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam informed UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. The same sources indicate that the Gulf option is no more, no less than a Middle East option for at least three reasons:

1. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan aims basically at stirring up the Middle East crisis. Therefore, the American response must inevitably center on this crisis.
2. The objective of a strike in the Gulf is not the Gulf itself, because the United States is really aware that the Soviet Union will not be able at this time to achieve its dream of reaching warm waters.
3. It is on the Middle East stage that Egyptian policy of rapprochement with Israel and Washington will make it or break it.

The Saudi Position

In any case, it appears that American action will be as follows if the Gulf option is taken:

1. A blowup in the Gulf, accompanied by pacification in the Arab Maghrib and the Middle East, or
2. A blowup in the Gulf and the Middle East, accompanied by pacification in the Arab Maghrib.

Saudi Arabia approves of the first alternative, with slight reservations. In precise terms, Riyadh wants Washington to play the game in the interest of Riyadh in 2 ways:

1. Confine the upheaval to deposition of the southern Yemeni regime, without other complications in the Gulf area which could spread to the Middle East arena, and
2. Allow the downfall of the southern Yemeni regime to be primarily a gain for Riyadh, and secondarily a gain for Washington.

This obviously runs counter to certain views in the American administration that smaller allies should remain weak, especially after the fall of the Shah of Iran demonstrated the futility of relying on such allies. Besides, strengthening such allies places them in a position to play games on the United States itself.

As for the second alternative of an upheaval in both the Middle East and in the Gulf, Saudi Arabia is extremely opposed to it, especially as it

would be in the interest of Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat. The Saudis still have grave misgivings concerning Sadat's political principles and practices.

The Opinion of Western Europe

But what do Western Europe and Japan say? There is no doubt that the allies led by France, strongly oppose a policy of upheaval and confrontation in the Gulf.

The allies know that the arteries of their economic life depend on some degree of stability in the Gulf region, including political stability. This is because disintegration of this stability would lead to economic chaos, the results of which neither Western Europe nor Japan would be able to bear.

If the U.S. implicitly bets on the ability of the Egyptian-Israeli alliance to take advantage of any disorder in the Gulf and steer it in a favorable direction, Western Europe does not share such U.S. optimism and confidence in the effectiveness of the Egyptian-Israeli formula which lacks all elements of balance in the region

On the other hand, Western Europe concurs with certain segments of the American administration on triggering an explosion in the Arab Maghrib and pacifying the Gulf and the Middle Eastern fronts, especially the Gulf. The antagonism to Libya and the French intervention in the Tunisian-Libyan dispute revealed by the incidents at Gafsa are evidence of this concurrence.

It is said in this regard that this option finds real allies in the Arab region itself.

The smaller Gulf states prefer this option, since the other option, that is a blowup in the Gulf, should it get out of hand, would present a serious threat to the very existence of these states themselves.

Why the Maghrib?

Recently there was word in some Arab diplomatic circles of the existence of cooperation between the countries of the European Common Market and the smaller Gulf states. This cooperation is based on 2 points: 1) pressure on the U.S., so that there will be no blowup in the Gulf, and 2) if a blowup is inevitable, let it happen "somewhere else." Observers indicate that the Maghrib is the only other place, so long as the European and Gulf blocs take an emphatic stand against a blowup in the Middle East on the grounds that a limited explosion in the Middle East is impossible and that any large-scale explosion in the Middle East would inevitably spread to the oil wells themselves.

But why the Maghrib? As analyzed by an Arab Diplomat, among the many reasons why the Europeans, especially France, would chose the Maghrib, are the following:

1. The African continent is the only one in which France can cooperate with the U.S. without resultant gain going entirely to America. But in fact, it is America's refusal to be a partner of Western Europe in Africa which explains the numerous differences between them in the black continent. These include the dispute over the unity of Nigeria and the secession of Biafra, and the refusal of the United States to interfere in Angola and Zaire when France and Belgium were entangled in the struggles of these countries. Thus, it is seen that drawing America into a battle in North Africa would benefit Western Europe. But a battle in the Gulf, if successful, would result in a purely American gain, at the expense of present European interests in the Gulf.

2. Strengthening the Atlas situation in the Maghrib would improve the chances of a settlement rather than an explosion in the Middle East, in contrast to the possible consequences of intervention in the Gulf or the Middle East itself. This is the basic argument which the Europeans present to convince America.

3. The next thrust of the Soviet Union will not be in the Gulf, as some elements of the American administration believe, but will be in the Western Sahara from which the Soviets will burst forth on the side of Libya and Algeria, to establish themselves in Morocco and Tunisia and penetrate south into the depths of the continent.

European-Gulf Cooperation

European-Gulf cooperation to avert an eruption in the Gulf is evidenced by 2 moves which at first blush appear to be unrelated:

1. The announcement by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Habir al-Sabah, foreign minister of Kuwait, that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan does not pose any threat to Arab oil, and that his country rejects the presence of American forces in the Gulf, "because we do not need anyone to defend us." This was the Kuwaiti minister's reply to President Carter's plan to set up an American security umbrella over the Gulf.

2. The proposal of the foreign ministers of the European Common Market countries to turn Afghanistan into a neutral country. This would mean holding representative elections in Afghanistan, cessation of Western support of the Moslim rebels, and calling on the Soviet Union to withdraw its forces on the basis of these considerations. Observers see as one of the aims of this European plan promoting conditions of stability in the region surrounding the Gulf. This would support the Gulf point of view, as expressed by Kuwait and the smaller Gulf states, that there is no imminent Soviet danger, and hence no need to bring in American military forces.

The International Game And the Arabs

It appears that the Soviet Union welcomes the Gulf and European initiatives with evident relief, and wants to use them as two possible trump cards

against the dominant view in the American administration which prefers an eruption in the Gulf.

This at least is what is suggested by the words of Soviet president Leonid Brezhnev that the United States is the one hindering Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, thus attempting to widen the gap between the European-Gulf position and the American position, or to increase European-Gulf pressure on the U.S. As the Soviets get into this game, they do so with a good deal of optimism. This is especially so, because the British position, which was the closest to that of the U.S. and the most severe toward the Soviets and their interference in Afghanistan, underwent some moderation and change, as evidenced by the proposal of Lord Carrington, the British foreign secretary, of a plan to neutralize Afghanistan at a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Common Market.

The truth is that the Soviet optimism was justified, since Brezhnev had hardly finished speaking when the Foreign Minister of West Germany, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, commented to the effect that Brezhnev's speech raised serious issues which must be carefully examined.

But the results of the American counter move are not yet apparent. The unknown aspects of the visit of American Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to Bonn, Paris, Rome and London may explain many things. The optimism displayed by Vance with regard to a European consensus, including France itself, may be about a number of things, including agreement on a joint American-European move with respect to the immediate Arab objective.

Has France, for example, agreed to boycott the Olympic games, or to take a firm position on the side of the United States, in exchange for the U.S.'s adoption of the Maghrib option?

9397

CSO: 4802

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ARAB SATELLITE--Amman, 30 May: The Director-General of the Arab Satellite Organization has said that work on the satellite project may be completed in 1982. Dr Ali Al-Mashat met with the Jordanian Minister of Communications, Dr Mohammad Al-Zain. They reviewed progress of work on the project which is being built by Arabsat. Arab Satellite telecommunication experts are holding meetings here to pursue the Arab satellite project in the context of the Arab League. The General Assembly of Arabsat met in Rabat, Morocco, on 28 April for a 3-day session. A report of the organization's Board on the Arab satellite project was discussed. The Saudi Arabian Minister of Posts, Telephone and Telegraph Dr Alawi Darwish Kayyal, who led the Kingdom's delegation to the meetings, said the project may be completed next year. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Syria and the UAE are the members of the Board. An agreement for the launching of an Arab satellite was signed in 1976. The general assembly decided to site the ground station for the satellite which is due to be launched shortly, in Riyadh. The satellite will handle up to 12,000 inter-Arab telephone and telex calls at once and should cope with the Arab world's telecommunication needs until 1990. The meeting was delayed until later requests by some Arab countries, including Morocco, saying they should provide a site for the relay control station that will probably be built by the British Hughes Aircraft Company. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 31 May 80 p 3]

CSO: 4820

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE QUESTIONED

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 18 Apr 80 p 23

[Interview with Habib Chatti by Munir al-Zayn: "The Liberation of Jerusalem Is Not Up to Us"]

[Text] After 13 years, four secretary generals, hundreds of millions of dollars, thousands of trips, conferences, commissions, and luxury hotel suites, tons of words and smoking kilometers of Havana cigars, the secretary general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference says: "It is not up to the organisation to liberate Jerusalem."

Then what is required of this organisation which was formed of 47 Islamic nations after the crazy fire which was set in al-Aqsa mosque, and which dedicated itself from the first communique to Jerusalem's liberation? What has it done for Jerusalem? Has it been able to make some of its members break diplomatic relations with Israel, which continually claims that Jerusalem is its eternal capital?

Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organisation seated deep in a Louis XIV couch inside an imposing suite at the Hyde Park Hotel, smoking a long cigar, answered with embarrassing frankness.

"It is neither anticipated nor required from us that we liberate Jerusalem. Miracles are not forthcoming, our means are not adequate."

[Question] Then what are you doing?

[Answer] We have undertaken significant measures in two fields: The first is to support the steadfastness of both Muslim and non-Muslim Arab citizens of Jerusalem in order to preserve Jerusalem's Arab Islamic character and to aid her sons to endure what they suffer at the hands of the Israelis. We support their cultural projects but discourage them from selling their lands. These actions are the responsibility of the Jerusalem Committee and by what is called the Jerusalem Fund, which receives yearly donations from some Islamic countries.

Furthermore, we are taking measures in the political arena in spite of charges that we operate passively and that we have not achieved positive results. It is true that there have not been positive results yet but the Islamic movement--formed 10 years ago--has perhaps diminished Israeli pressure on our citizens. I say "perhaps"--and not "certainly"--because the Israelis, as we have seen, continue to practice the policy of transforming Jerusalem's Arab and Islamic landmarks. However, I wonder: Wouldn't this transformation be greater if there were not an Islamic opposition?

[Question] Perhaps. But what Islamic movement and what opposition are you talking about?

[Answer] I mean the assistance which our brethren in the PLO have given. This is the general meaning but many more projects can be cited. The important thing is that they are positive measures which concern the social, cultural, religious, and daily lives of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

[Question] Your organization comprises 52 Islamic countries, is this what you've done?

[Answer] Actually we are taking political measures just like all the organizations in the UN or the Arab League. There is a limited field for operations, restricted here to contacting nations, feeling out world public opinion, working within the UN--in order to arouse the interest of world public opinion in the Palestinian cause.

[Question] Have you aroused the concern of world public opinion?

[Answer] We've achieved some encouraging results so that the PLO has assumed a respectable standing. This has occurred in the Western world itself. We are obliged to encourage the West so that it does not shift to a negative attitude contradictory to the current European decisive resolution to recognize the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people and so that Europe's change of heart will become a positive one which recognizes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative for the Palestinian people, and resolves on the necessity of creating a Palestinian state. We are demanding that they do this, and we're trying to mobilize inside and outside Europe in order to create a climate to pressure Israel and even America.

Our difficulty is not only with Israel but also with America, and America is part of the Western world which we're visiting today. We want to make all these our allies so that we can put the greatest amount of pressure on America until it changes its policy.

[Question] Don't you think that any other existing organization could do this for you without changing anything? Perhaps the Arab League itself could do even more than that? The PLO has tried nearly everything--so what then is the justification for your existing under the "banner of Islam"?

[Answer] You're right, but we operate in an Islamic field which includes countries in Asia and Arab East, and Africa. When all these countries rally round specific goals and when they can attain the means to work toward Islamic solidarity, the result would be considerable.

The Islamic bloc carries some weight in the UN. It is a force of great importance to the East and West because it represents 42 votes, that is nearly a third of the UN membership. This is what makes our work more extensive than that of the Arab League, the PLO, or the OAU.

When the Israelis assaulted Hebron our organization appealed to the Islamic bloc to convene in New York, then we called for a session of the Security Council in order to adopt a resolution, then we prepared the original draft of the resolution. For the first time we got a resolution which America supported in spite of Carter's reversal of that decision afterwards, and in spite of the world's aversion to this reversal. I don't care to mention how the American President was characterized or how he was derided.

[Question] During your audience with the pope some days ago, did you ask him about a position different from the recent speech he gave in the UN about Jerusalem's future? Did you examine the joint Muslim-Christian plans for Jerusalem, the ideas of internationalization or restoration of Arab rule?

My talk with the pope revolved on the idea that Jerusalem is the sacred city for the monotheistic, revealed religions. We told the pope that Jerusalem was holy to both Muslims and Christians and even to the Jews, and that the Arab Muslims throughout their long history have manifested their reverence for the holy shrines which were not their own and have protected these sites--in addition to [emphasizing] their inalienable legitimate rights historically and legally. We believe that Christians do not approve of Jerusalem's becoming a Jewish city. We hope that they will assist us in preventing the Jews from Judaizing it.

[Question] What was the pope's answer?

[Answer] He said that Jerusalem was a city of the sacred shrines.

[Question] That's all?

[Answer] He also told us that there has to be a solution that is pleasing to everyone.

[Question] The Muslims of Afghanistan are resisting the Soviet invasion with guns dating to before WWI. What are you doing for them? What do you intend to do? Will their fate with you be the same as the fate of Jerusalem?

[Answer] The first step we took for their cause was the holding of the conference at Islamabad which made a great impression on the world. We will study the second step in the coming Islamabad conference.

[Question] What is this second step?

[Answer] It's premature to say anything about it or predict it. We will make the decisions that will aid in finding a solution. We do not want to spoil relations between the Islamic countries and the Soviet Union.

[Question] What?

[Answer] We have no quarrel with the Soviets beyond what is related to the invasion of Afghanistan.

[Question] And the millions of Muslims in the UBSR?

[Answer] That is another point I hope we can discuss with the Soviets some day.

[Question] Sir, let's suppose that one of the Islamic republics of the Soviet Union requested admission to the Islamic Conference organization. Would you accept them?

[Answer] That is difficult from a legal standpoint. That republic would have to be independent and self-ruling; for this I do not believe the supposition is valid.

[Question] Aren't there countries in your organization which resemble the situation of the Soviet Union's Islamic republics--that is, countries that are not independent?

[Answer] I don't understand.

[Question] Thank you Mr Secretary General.

9587

CSO: 4820

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

ANNIVERSARY OF AFGHAN REVOLUTION--Peshawar, 4 May--According to reliable sources, the puppet government headed by Karmal failed to celebrate the second anniversary of the Afghan revolution. In some cities, the celebration took place after protection by tanks and armoured cars was provided. Ceremonies to celebrate the revolution were marred by riots in Herat, Gazni and Jalalabad. Parents in Jalalabad were forced to send their children to participate in the ceremonies. In order to spread hatred towards the refugees [who left Afghanistan], policemen in civilian clothes threw handbombs at the students participating in a parade. This resulted in the death of 20 students. Another 40 were hurt. People participating in the ceremonies saw through this trick, and shouted slogans demanding the blood of those who threw the bombs. The situation in Jalalabad is still very serious. In spite of the efforts by the government, nobody showed up for the ceremonies in Herat. The deserted roads in the city expressed the hatred of people for the Karmal government. Meanwhile, in Jalalabad and Ghazni there were skirmishes between the Afghani and Russian armies. These confrontations took place after the Afghan soldiers demanded not to be brainwashed with films about Lenin. It was learned that stores and markets in Herat have been closed since 21 April. Residents of Herat are protesting against celebration of Lenin's birthday and exhibition of Afghanistan's new flag. [Text] [Lahore MASHRIQ in Urdu 5 May 80 pp 1, 8] 7997

MYSTERIOUS DISEASE--New Delhi, 5 May--HIND SAMACHAR, an Indian newspaper, reports that dozens of Russian soldiers have died from a dangerous and mysterious disease in Afghanistan. The Newspaper said that this disease is spread in the areas around the border between Russia and Afghanistan. Only the Russian army is stationed in that area. According to the report in the newspaper, Russian soldiers die of this disease after suffering for three days from scabies. Some of the dead are high officers. Russian officers are very troubled by this disease and have declared this area unsafe. They have removed the soldiers and Afghan residents to another area. This area has been declared off limit to everybody. [Text] [Lahore MASHRIQ in Urdu 6 May 80 p 2] 7997

COMMUNIST ENGINEERS FLEE AFGHANISTAN--New Delhi, 11 May--As the result of successful attacks by the Afghani crusaders, a large number of civil

technicians from Russia, Czechoslovakia and other Communist countries have begun to flee Afghanistan. These technicians were working on some developmental projects. These projects are left unfinished due to their flight for their countries. According to the latest news, the pro-Soviet government headed by Babrak Karmal has acquired services of Indian technicians, and many projects have been taken over by Indian engineers. According to the news received in New Delhi, Russia had not only sent these technicians for long-term projects to Afghanistan, but their families were also invited to go to Afghanistan. Now they are going back to their countries. A large number of them has already left. According to some reports Czechoslovak technicians working in the coal mines of Qali Khamri in Baglan province were attacked by the Afghani crusaders. The Russian army had a hard time in removing these technicians. After this incident, Czechoslovak technicians working in other mines in Baglan also left. The abrupt departure of these experts has left many cement and cloth factories unfinished in southern Afghanistan. According to some reports, the feeling of insecurity among the foreign experts in Afghanistan is increasing. [Text] [Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 12 May 80 pp 1,6] 7997

CSO: 4203

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY ZOROASTRIAN DEPUTY OF MAJLES

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 27 May 80 p 2

[Text] Parviz Nikpur, representative of Iranian Zoroastrians in the National Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic, during a talk with ETTELA'AT's parliamentary reporter, expressed his views concerning the composition of the assembly, the constitution, minority rights, and American and Iranian relations. In this interview, while stressing the necessity for writing additional laws for the constitution, he implied that he would not be a part of any faction.

Composition of the Assembly

In answer to a question on how he envisioned the composition of the assembly, he said: Concerning the representation that has been elected, while I respect the vote of the people, I must say that the assembly is composed of well-known national, political, and religious figures, for whom, though their track records point to competence with the workings of an assembly, judgment of their work should be suspended until later. In any case I have hopes that this assembly will move ahead harmoniously in the process of strengthening the revolution of the Islamic Republic.

Minority Rights

The question was asked: Concerning observance of minority rights, is the constitution in need of amendment, and how is the constitution over-all? Mr Nikpur said: Minorities are part of this same country, and they have no connection with any other country or land. For better or worse it is this country, for better or worse it is them, and in my view separating their rights from the rights of the rest of the people is not worthy of a Revolutionary Islamic Republic.

Difficulties With the Constitution

He added: I see difficulties in various areas with the constitution, and while I consider it on the whole as progressive and as a step forward, I believe, as the Enam has said, that its shortcomings should be laid aside

as soon as possible by means of amendments and a constitution should be made that is worthy of the great revolution of the people of Iran.

Characteristics of the Prime Minister

The question was asked: What sort of person should the prime minister of Iran be? Nikpur answered: Perhaps you are asking about the composition of the government in the future. If not, even if the prime minister is one of the well-known figures popular among the people, and a hard-working political man, without the cooperation of all the executive authorities, and at the same time the legislative powers, he will be unable to do anything. My hope is that the future government of Iran will take steps right along the Imam's line, meaning along the path of anti-imperialism and of improving the lives of the suffering people and the preservation of the country's democratic freedoms. These are the elementary aspects, and other areas may be worked out at a secondary stage.

Relations Between Iran and America

The Zoroastrian representative then expressed his views concerning the fate of the American spy hostages and American crimes in Iran as follows: Not only during the last 50 years, but during the period since the revolution also world-devouring foreigners have done everything they could do against the revolutionary people of Iran. It is not necessary to mention their pressure, plundering and military aggression, for everyone knows of these things. Their European allies and Japan have been and are hand-in-hand with them in everything. It is not only an issue of the freedom or non-freedom of the hostages. The world must become aware of the oppressions that have been carried out against our country and the rest of the world's oppressed people through their unilateral relationships. In any case, with belief in what the Imam has said, having an oppressed-to-oppressor relationship is unacceptable, and we must try to develop the most logical policies possible for cutting economic dependence.

Zoroastrian Problems

Concerning the problems of minorities, the Zoroastrian representative said: The internal problems of the Zoroastrians cannot be separated from the overall problems of Iranian society. The people of our country should not become separated because of religious divisions. The suffering Zoroastrians have the same problems the suffering Moslems have. Of course it is possible that traditional internal Zoroastrian relations is an issue that the Zoroastrians will undertake to resolve themselves, and furthermore that it will be unnecessary to bring them before the National Consultative Assembly.

At the conclusion of the interview Nikpur said he considered the formation of a party composed of representatives of religious minorities unlikely and said: I will work with anyone who works to strengthen the revolution in the assembly.

ANGLICAN BISHOP: 'CRIMINALS RULE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION'

Paris NAME-YE RUZ in Persian 22 May 80 p 9

[Text] According to the British newspapers, the Anglican bishop, Hasan Dehqani Tafti, who has arrived in London on Tuesday, spoke of sufferings and harassments which his family experienced after the victory of Islamic revolution.

Of his 24-year old son, Bahram Tafti, who was killed two weeks ago on one of the streets of Tehran, he said that his son "has suffered martyrdom for our way, for his country, for the Church, and for our principles. He had no fear and spoke the truth."

The bishop has been reunited, after a six-week separation, with his wife, Margaret, and daughters: Goli, 14-year old, and Shirin, 26-year old. His wife gave account of how she and her two daughters had lived all alone in Esfahan, while her husband has been in Cyprus which is the center of the Anglican Church for the entire Middle East.

The bishop narrated how his life has been threatened twice. The first time, when 30 men attacked his home, plundered it, and took him to a revolutionary camp. He was later released, but in October last year his house was attacked again. Shots were fired at that time and his wife was wounded.

He also said that to further molest his family and to fill their pockets, the "revolutionaries" had illegally "confiscated" money in two Anglican hospitals. The Anglican Church had some of the best hospitals in Iran. As well as six schools with an annual income of L.5 million. In the beginning the Government had supported the bishop's protests but later retreated.

In the beginning of this month, Mrs Jean Waddell, the 58-year old bishop's secretary was shot and killed by the attackers. She wanted to return to England but was not given the exit permit. The bishop said that he and his family will remain in England for some time and then will go to Cyprus in the hope that one day they will return to Iran. He stated: "I am very proud of Iran and its history, but I am very sad that a handful of fanatics, terrorists and opportunists have been able to commit such crimes."

"In the beginning we welcomed the revolution since it gave hope of new freedoms, but there is no freedom at present. Criminals and carrion vultures act in the name of religion, but they are wolves in sheep's clothing."

"He doesn't regret," says his wife, "I think that suffering is part of life. It is not possible to perform constructive or convincing acts and prove them right without suffering. We know that what has happened and the death of our child reinforces the Church and does not weaken it as they would hope."

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CSO: 4906

COURTS SENTENCE CRIMINALS TO DEATH

Robbers in Zahedan

LD061758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jun 80

[Text] According to our correspondent in Zahedan, the Sistan Va Baluchestan Islamic Revolutionary Court has sentenced two persons: Yar Mohammad Shekh Zadeh, the son of 'Ali Mohammad, and Minabakhsh Bina, the son of Morad, to death on charges of armed robbery, confrontation with the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and creating an unsafe situation on Baluchestan's roads. The two were pronounced guilty of sowing corruption on earth and were executed at 0200 today.

Killers in Ahvaz

GF091420 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 9 Jun 80

[Text] The following announcement has been issued by the Ahvaz Islamic Revolution court:

In his exalted name, following its investigation, the Islamic Revolution Court sentenced Hamid Bavi to death. The sentence was carried out this morning.

Hamid Bavi had been charged with killing revolution guardsman Iraj Sabzevari on 13 July 1979. He had admitted his guilt following his arrest. Hamid Bavi feigned insanity at the beginning of the investigation in order to escape punishment, so the court asked three doctors to examine him. He was found to be in perfect mental condition. As a result of his confession and other available evidence, Hamid Bavi was sentenced to death for being a corrupter.

CSO: 4906

ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN OUTLINED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Apr 80 p 9

[Article by Yoav Harpaz: "How Energy Can Be Saved in Israel"]

[Text] Wise planning of energy conservation means proper selection of the most effective means potentially available. Such means should be widely applicable and should have good chances of being rapidly implemented. Much can be learned from such activities in other countries which have taken energy conservation seriously and have developed effective conservation measures. When adopting these measures to conditions in Israel, it must be remembered that realization of energy conservation plans generally runs into many difficulties for both political and practical reasons. Experience teaches that weak governments are unable to decide on specific methods for conservation and through which official channels they should be implemented. However, such a complex national challenge requires centralized planning and management, especially in Israel where government planning and management have successfully realized sophisticated enterprises in water management, agriculture, defense industry, and other fields.

This national planning must be carried out on two levels. National master-planning must be based upon predicted energy usage and an index of potential conservation but also on an evaluation of the efficacy and advantages of the various measures and proposals for strategic and operational policy. An operative plan must schedule measures to be taken. Such serious planning has not been undertaken in Israel. This is one of the factors contributing to Israel's underdevelopment in the field of energy conservation. In the framework of the Authority for Energy Conservation I prepared a basic strategy which may be of interest. An outline of this plan follows. In it are presented various groups of measures to be taken by the major sectors of the economy.

Industrial Sector: Of all sectors of the economy, industry is in the best position to counteract the fuel crisis. It is based upon cost effectiveness and thus requires efficiency and economy. Since 1973, a general decline in this sector's energy demand relative to energy produced has occurred. Though small (12% from 1973 to 1977) this is a significant drop by comparison to the figures for transportation and the economy as a whole.

What effective and fast actions can the government take in relation to industry beyond demanding unsubsidised and uncontrolled energy prices? Here are some good possibilities: Direct incentives in the form of credit at reduced rates and grants whose terms are as good as those given for development of production and export; informational and technical aid and provision of survey and planning services; cancellation or change in the system of price guidelines or in subsidies for price-monitored products; government controls on large energy consumers; exercise of controls in planning of new plants; promotion of and participation in coal conversion and the creation of dual function plants producing power and heat. Existing plans offer 20 groups of measures to be applied in order of priority.

Hotels, Business and Services: Because of this sector's diversity, nearly all means available must be brought to bear in order to achieve a 10% decrease in consumption in a short time. In particular, working towards increasing the use of solar-power water heaters to replace solar oil and electric units, improving insulation of buildings, changing planning and installation of heating and air-conditioning systems, inspection of the operation and maintenance of these systems, and correct use of equipment and lighting.

Government and Community Institutions: This sector is characterized by the fact that, despite great vociferousness, its components are public domain and are not profit making enterprises. Its total energy consumption is small, as is its potential in national conservation. However, there is need for including this sector for moral reasons and to foster public awareness. Technical assistance, administrative directives, conditional fixed and one-time budgetary allocations, can still bring about outstanding savings in each of the many institutions and offices of this sector.

Water: The plan for the National Water Carrier, which uses about 80% of all the electricity in the water sector, involves improvement of pumping equipment, changes in pipeline and reservoir orientations and more effective use of the water network. To achieve desired energy (and water) conservation, realistic electric pricing (including a rate schedule reflecting intensity of use) should be achieved first and foremost. The development budget of the National Water Carrier should earmark special funds for investment in installations and activities which optimize electric use. Privately owned installations also demand monetary incentives, technical aid and mandatory standards. A return to extensive sewage treatment utilizing solar energy and bio-mass techniques is necessary.

Agricultural Sector: Plans for this sector fall largely into two categories: Direct incentives for efficiency and conservation in all sectors of agriculture and all agricultural settlements; and demonstration of economic use of alternate energy sources such as solar power, ground water and hot springs, waste energy from power plants and gas from agricultural by-products.

Transportation: As regards transport and public transportation, the largest terrestrial energy user, effective means of improving maintenance and effective transport management should be prime targets. The present subsidies for public transportation have encouraged waste. This structure should be

changed. As concerns private automobiles (which consume 6% of the total national energy requirement), emphasis should be placed primarily on changing the structure of the fleet of automobiles in use and on control of its growth, lowering total mileage driven, reorganization of urban traffic flow, increased use of diesel engines, changing driving habits and improving auto maintenance.

The means for instituting changes, aside from maintaining appropriate gasoline pricing, will primarily be deterrents (direct taxation, cancellation of reimbursements and elimination of tax write-offs) and positive measures whose negative effect on the economy and transportation service would be negligible.

Specific restrictions on fuel supplies and proper management of transport are among the measures likely to bring about a reduction in energy consumed by sea and air transport.

Household Consumption: Because of varied uses and the nature of the consuming public (which uses some 14% of the national total) it is suggested that efforts be concentrated in selected areas with potential for great savings. These are: Massive change to solar water heating units, building to conserve heating and cooling energy, improvement of heating units (particularly the rapidly increasing central heating units), halting the increasing use of energy consuming devices in households. In order to achieve these goals all available means must be employed, beginning with information and public guidance and including incentives (such as for encouragement of change-over to central solar units), penalties (price increases and taxation), laws and government regulation.

Most of the means available to the government are not limited to one sector. Many are almost universal: Information and education, for example, or encouraging public action groups to crusade for energy conservation. Also in this category are socio-economic changes such as daylight savings time or appointment of an energy foreman in every factory or institution. Correct pricing of energy, with the addition to pricing of a factor reflecting the aim of conserving energy, will finance conservation activities and influence the entire economy. Together with this, the immunity of some groups to price increases should be counteracted.

The plan outlined above for energy conservation in Israel, a matter whose urgency is greater today than ever before, is not a pipe-dream. On the contrary, there is no doubt that if implemented, within three to five years a savings of 5-10% (perhaps double in 10 years) in national consumption would be achieved. This means reducing predicted oil imports by more than 1 million tons each year. Aside from annual savings of hundreds of millions of dollars, the growth of energy consumption would also cease without negative effect upon the economy. Moreover, the ability of the economy to withstand a prolonged energy crisis would be greatly enhanced.

In order to bring about these changes, very small allocations of funds relative to potential savings are required.

Israel has good potential and significant prior experience in effective energy planning and management, especially as regards energy conservation. The ability to put these plans into operation will depend upon three factors: Accepting energy conservation as a high priority national challenge; undertaking difficult and complicated organizational measures; and allotment of relatively small resources for this project.

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CSO: 4805

INCREASE OF GNP AND ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Apr 80 p 5

[Article: "Increased Production, Diversification and Restructuring of Tax and Tariff System Recommended for a Better Economy"]

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf received from the leaders of the private economic sector a memorandum detailing their recommendations on the subjects that he had discussed in a meeting at the prime ministry last January. The memorandum outlined a program of economic development and responded to a number of points raised by the prime minister for improving the economy in general, increasing revenue sources, restructuring the tax and tariff system and controlling inflation. The memorandum described how the private sector and public sector can work cooperatively for improving the economy. The memorandum was drafted by the Association of Chambers of Commerce, the Chamber of Industry of Amman and the Association of Jordanian Banks.

The Economic Future

Referring to the economic future, the memorandum said: While it is difficult to predict the future with certainty, it, nevertheless, possible to outline a framework for Jordan's economic development in the next two decades based on present indicators and on the country's economic and social policies. Future economic development must be based on the following steps:

A. Increased agricultural output to guarantee food security. To accomplish this goal, it is necessary to increase the size of irrigated agricultural land, to improve the output of non-irrigated land and to develop the country's animal resources. Production must be improved vertically by greater reliance on modern farming techniques, more efficient use of fertilizers and pesticides, and laterally by reclaiming unused land and encouraging a greater number of people to enter the agricultural industry.

B. Better utilization of the country's fixed mineral resources, search for others, and a greater effort to establish an industry for transforming minerals into manufactured goods.

C. Expanding the industrial base with emphasis on the export and food industries to reduce the country's trade deficit.

D. Better and expanded training programs to provide the needed skills and create work opportunities for a growing number of workers. Jordan's population and labor force projections are given in the following table.

Year	Population in 1000's	Labor Force in 1000's
1980	2,247	451.6
1985	2,784	573.5
1990	3,349	706.3
1995	4,273	920.0
2000	5,295	1169.7

It is evident from these figures that 700,000 jobs must be created in the coming 20 years.

E. Working toward a more balanced economic output. The share of industrial output, for example, must rise relative to the size of the total local output.

F. Increasing the number of domestic revenue sources to reduce dependence on outside sources.

G. Better geographic distribution of development projects to slow down migration from the rural areas to the cities.

H. Better exploitation of Jordan's historical attractions to develop the tourist industry, as well as using the country's geographical location as a trade distribution center to neighboring countries and for the passage of transit goods. Expansion of the free-trade zones and the elimination of red tape will establish Jordan as a service center for all countries in the region.

An economic policy that emphasizes production, coupled with cooperation between the private and public sectors and encouragement of individual initiative will augur well for the country's economic future. During the remainder of this century, Jordan's economy will remain free permitting all economic forces to interact and take their effects within the general framework established by the government.

Future economic growth is tied to increased cooperation between the private and public sectors and to a greater effort to find the best methods for realizing the hoped for goals. More specifically, cooperation between the two sectors must include the following:

1. A continuation of government participation in those projects which form the infrastructure of the economy. These are the long-term, costly projects which benefit all sectors of the economy.

2. Government participation with the private sector in large projects through contracts is important. Another facet of this cooperative effort centers on encouraging the purchase, even at higher prices of locally produced goods, especially when these are of equal quality to foreign goods. Such a policy will encourage domestically produced goods and guarantee their competitiveness.
3. Proceeding with the establishment of the already planned industrial zones throughout the country and ensuring the availability of essential services for their operation. The construction of the industrial complex at Sahab must proceed expeditiously.
4. Technical and management training programs must be increased to meet the manpower needs of the economic development program.
5. The government must undertake the creation of those industries which do not produce quick returns and then sell them to the private sector as soon as they become productive. Funds from the sale of these industries must be used to begin new industries.
6. The government must encourage a balanced geographic distribution of industrial projects throughout the country.
7. The government must participate in encouraging better methods of production by giving incentives for using modern technology. In particular, speedy depreciation of new machinery must be permitted. Such a policy will contribute to better quality and greater productivity.
8. Encouraging the establishment of industries that serve the local market to reduce reliance on imports.
9. Inviting the Retirement Fund and the Postal Savings Fund and others to participate in those projects which are beyond the means of individuals. These include intermediate industries that are necessary for the supply and maintenance of existing industries.
10. Protecting certain existing and newly established industries as well as helping certain others to export their products.
11. Continued coordination and consultation with the private sector on all legislation relating to economic production.
12. Continued coordination with the private sector to secure an adequate supply of essential commodities.
13. Defining the government's role in matters relating to consumable items and restricting it to dealing only with certain basic food commodities. The Ministry of Supplies role must be restricted to dealing with these basic food commodities to prevent it from becoming an unfair competitor with the private sector, particularly in view of the fact that its imports are free

of custom duties. It is also necessary that the government continue to aid soldiers and civil servants but not at the expense of the private sector. It must be noted, however, that government intervention in the consumer sector is aimed at creating balance and discouraging price gouging. The government is not in the market for profit but as a public service to insure price stability.

14. Simplifying governmental red tape in matters relating to the establishment of new industries, particularly in connection with granting tax exemptions for imported machinery and materials.

15. Reviewing the tariff structure for the purpose of exempting primary materials and machinery from custom duties as one way of encouraging the development of industry and, subsequently, blunting inflation.

16. Reducing or totally exempting certain essential consumer goods from import duties.

17. Halting the import of or imposing higher fees on goods that are in adequate supply and of acceptable quality in the domestic market.

18. Exempting or reducing taxes on profits from the sale of exported goods as an incentive to the export industry. This step would make our exports more competitive.

19. Exempting reinvested profits from taxation.

20. Establishment of a more restrictive licensing policy to prevent duplication of existing industries except in cases of demonstrated economic feasibility.

21. Encouraging investment in local industry by Jordanians working outside the country.

22. Reviewing the investment promotion law with a view to attract new industries to the less developed parts of the country. This could be accomplished by providing low interest loans and tax exemptions.

23. Giving additional support to the Industrial Development Bank, raising the maximum limit on loans the bank provides and making loans easier to obtain.

24. Securing agreements from the countries of the Common Arab Market under which imports from and exports to these countries are made on a mutually fair and acceptable basis.

25. Establishing a food industry to be supplied by the domestic agricultural sector.

26. Making a greater and more diversified use of non-irrigated land and restricting urban crawl.

27. Using the extensive wilderness area to develop pastureland for increasing animal resources. The use of pasturelands must be regulated as a conservation measure.

The country's monetary policy plays an ever larger role in economic and social development programs. All domestic and external capital sources are used to finance our many economic projects. The success of any project depends on the availability of both money and workers. Outlined below is a series of monetary recommendations that can be used as a blueprint for giving our economic development a strong push forward. The recommendations are designed to keep our economy free and to encourage investment. They reflect our complete confidence in Jordan's economic system and give a fair and equal chance to all banking institutions to enable them to serve society.

1. Creating one market for dealing in foreign currencies without distinction between licensed banks and licensed individual money exchangers.
2. Simplifying the procedure for transferring foreign currencies through banks. Such a policy would serve to attract foreign money to our banking system and, subsequently, make it available for economic development projects.
3. Permitting insurance and tourist companies to deposit the foreign currency portion of their income in banks.
4. Permitting licensed banks to maintain a portion of their foreign currency income to cover their liabilities abroad as a means to safeguard their depositors against changes in the foreign currency market, and, subsequently, to stabilize prices and control inflation.
5. Encouraging cooperation and dialog between banks and the Central Bank as a means of finding solutions to problems.
6. Linking the interest rate to the economic situation in general in order to enable banks to respond quickly and flexibly to changing situations and to encourage them to compete for deposits and promote savings.
7. Encouraging commercial banks to shoulder the burden for financing the state treasury and economic development projects by investing in government bonds and offering them for sale at higher interest rates.
8. Raising the ceiling on the amount of savings in foreign currency that resident Jordanians may keep in local banks.
9. Promoting the establishment of investment banks and institutions whose sole function is to finance publicly owned companies and permitting these institutions to grant intermediate and long term loans to spur economic production. It is also recommended that an investment institution run jointly by the state and the private sector be created for funding those investment projects whose capital needs exceed the capacities of existing banks.

10. Permitting foreign banks to extend their operations beyond the free trade zones and to open offices in all parts of the country. One way to encourage this process is to simplify regulations, provide partial or full tax exemption and to reduce the legal limit on the amount of reserves these banks must maintain. Foreign banks must be free to deal in Arab and international currencies. Such a policy will help make Jordan an international money market, attracting Arab and international money, which could be used to promote the country's economy as well as that of the Arab world.

Increasing the Number of Revenue Sources

The government's revenue comes from two sources, one domestic, the other external. Domestic revenue is derived from taxes, direct or indirect, as well as from custom duties, licensing fees and surtaxes.

A table showing the central government's revenues for the period 1975-1979 is given below.

Revenue in Millions of Dinars

Year	Direct Taxes	Indirect Taxes	Total
1975	9	49	58
1976	11	78	89
1977	15	104	119
1978	22	108	130
1979	27	123	150

Contrary to popular belief, Jordanians carry a big tax burden compared to citizens of other countries. For example, according to most recent statistics, Jordanians in 1979 paid 150 million dinars in direct and indirect taxes, nearly 30 percent of the gross national product. On the average, each Jordanian pays 70 dinars in direct and indirect taxes. Based on an average family size of 6.7 members--according to statistics from the latest census--this translates into 470 dinars per family per year, approximately 20 percent of the typical family's income. This is a high rate, especially in view of the fact that a large part of the population lives on limited incomes.

In seeking ways to increase governmental revenue, it is therefore appropriate not to do so at the expense of additional indirect taxes. Other sources must be found, sources that do not add to the present tax burden of the working class. This can be accomplished in the following manner:

1. Examining the possibility of imposing a tax on the sale of corporate shares and real estate which is sold before one year from its date of acquisition has elapsed.

2. Examining the possibility of imposing a fixed fee on professional workers including, as one example taxi drivers and truck operators.
3. Amending property ownership and rent laws in a manner that would make them fairer and bring additional revenue to the state treasury.
4. Maintaining a policy of government participation in financing intermediate and large-size economic projects.
5. Expanding and diversifying the country's economic base in ways that would result in greater production and thus a greater share of government revenue.
6. Simplifying income tax procedures and collection and reducing the number of tax evaders.

The Tax Structure

Jordan's developing economy, inflation, and the spiraling cost of living demand that the tax laws in effect be reviewed and that new ways for applying them be found. We offer here some suggestions for remedying the tax situation.

1. In view of inflation and the high cost of living, the number of personal and family tax exemptions permitted under Article 14 of the tax law must be reviewed.
2. Tax exemptions granted to civil servants and other government employees must be treated on a par with similar exemptions to the rest of the private sector workers. The [preferential] treatment accorded the first category must be ended in pursuit of fairness. These tax advantages are unconstitutional and unjust.
3. Taxes on overtime work by employees should be discontinued to encourage productivity and accelerate economic progress.
4. The tax exemption on insurance premiums paid by employers must be reviewed. The maximum current exemption is 8 dinars [per employee].
5. Paragraph 2 of Article 33 of the Tax Law must be reviewed. The paragraph referred to permits owners to reduce their property and real estate tax by any amount in excess of the tax payable on income derived from ownership of that property or real estate.
6. It is necessary to reexamine the depreciation laws applicable to machinery and other assets. The present schedule has not been modified since 1950.
7. It is necessary to reexamine the possibility of giving special [tax] consideration to cash reserves held by companies over and above capital funds as an incentive to reinvest part of their profits in expanding operations.

8. Putting into effect those laws on the books which exempt certain kinds of income from income taxes. These include:

(a) Profits made on shares of stock purchased from companies which have paid taxes under Paragraph 1 of Article 25 of the Tax Law. Such exemption is clearly spelled out in the current Tax Law.

(b) Income derived from interest on treasury bonds and other development and savings bonds. This exemption is stipulated in Article 13 of the Credit Law No 96 passed in 1966.

(c) Interest income from deposits in the Housing Bank according to Article 16 of the Housing Bank Law No 4 passed in 1974.

9. Interest income from bank deposits invested by these institutions outside the country. These include:

(a) Personal deposits of non-residents up to a maximum of 10,000 dinars per depositor.

(b) Balances maintained by banks outside the country to cover contracts in foreign exchange futures trading.

Controlling Inflation

With the aid of a [new] monetary policy and other measures, and with the cooperation of the public and private sectors, it is possible to bring inflation under control.

(a) Monetary Policy:

The aim of this policy is to reduce the money supply available to banks and individuals and to direct loans to productive enterprises.

(b) Financial Policy:

The aim of this policy is to guide general spending and to distribute it to all parts of the country, as well as to keep spending within the means of the domestic economy.

(c) Establishing guidelines for imports and educating the public in consumerism. "The wise know how to spend: they are neither spendthrifts nor miserly." (Verse 67, al-Firqan)

(d) Putting limits on spending on non-essentials on the installment plan. One way to accomplish this is to forbid merchants to finance customer purchases and to restrict the ceiling on credit to a fixed ratio of a customer's income.

(e) Ending shortages by establishing reserves of essential commodities.

(f) Spurring production by seeking markets outside the country to reduce production costs at home. Also, creating an export trade with participation by the private sector.

(g) Reducing red tape in government transactions.

(h) Monitoring commercial advertising and encouraging the public to use locally produced items, as well as putting limits on the purchase of items for the purpose of keeping up with one's neighbors.

Involvement in the Decision Making Process

The private sector has contributed meaningfully and effectively to Jordan's economic and social progress. The many contributions made by numerous institutions at the initiative of the private sector must also be recalled. Included in this category are schools, health and social institutions, hospitals, nurseries and schools for the physically or mentally handicapped. The private sector supports the construction and operation of these voluntary institutions. Private sector contributions to these institutions was 1.6 million dinars in 1978. This is in addition to the private sector contributions to religious institutions and universities.

While the private sector recalls this list of accomplishments, it stands determined to continue to contribute to these worthwhile causes, prompted by a sense of civic duty. It remains convinced that general prosperity, the opportunity for self-fulfillment, and social justice are beneficial to all members of society. It views its participation in these causes as essential to stability and security, two indispensable elements for development and progress.

The private sector stands ready to enter into a dialog with the government on the best means to make the private sector's participation more effective and to establish a framework for this participation. The difficulties facing the government or those that face its citizens could reflect upon society at large including both investors and consumers. The private sector proposes that a joint supreme committee for dealing with such eventuality be created. The committee's function would be to study problems and submit proposals for solution to the government. This matter is of vital importance at this time in view of the fact that the government is about to begin working on the next five-year economic and social development plan. The private sector also wishes to assert that a clear formulation of the problems facing the country is desirable. Participation by every sector of the economy at this stage of planning is beneficial to all society.

The private sector also wishes to remind everyone that it had done its part satisfactorily even before the government had adopted an economic planning policy.

In addition to the foregoing, we give here a set of recommendations designed to enhance the role of the private sector in government decision making.

1. It is recommended that the private sector be encouraged to provide for some of the public services that are in much demand such as hospitals, schools and institutions of higher learning by simplifying procedures and granting incentives for participation in the construction and operation of these institutions.
2. It is recommended that a joint private sector-government agency be established for collecting contributions from the citizenry. Proceeds from these contributions should be used for social and recreational projects such as parks, athletic fields, nursery schools and others.
3. We encourage the formation of citizen neighborhood committees to oversee cleanliness, beautification, and other environmental projects in residential communities and housing projects.
4. We encourage the creation of more summer camps for school children including a program of environmental conservation to teach them how to build retaining walls to prevent soil erosion, forestation techniques, road construction and general environmental cleanliness. Time spent in such service may be used to reduce the length of service in the military.
5. We recommend that some state land be turned over to the private sector to be developed into public forests and/or green belts.

Conclusion

Finally, the private sector wishes to reaffirm its readiness to work with the government on their common goals. While the private sector is aware that the government cannot perform miracles, its demands are moderate. The private sector stands ready to engage in dialog with the government over any and all problems.

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CSO: 4802

ROLE OF WORKING WOMAN IN SOCIETY

Amman AL-RA'I in Arabic 23 Apr 80 p 9

[Interview with Director of Department of Women Affairs, Rabiha Nasir, by Lima Nabil]

[Text] Throughout history, all moral and religious principles have called for respect for women and for giving them their full rights.

Just as each woman has a particular job inside or outside the home, she must be thoroughly familiar with the bases, the principles, the laws and the code of behavior required by each of the tasks she performs. The time when a woman entered an occupation without skill or preparation is now past. The secret of success of working women in the advanced industrial countries is that they are aware of the requirements and the qualifications for the jobs they enter.

Our society has long looked upon working women with disapproval. In fact, educating young women was viewed with traditional suspicion, a reactionary attitude that is largely responsible for our backwardness intellectually, socially and economically.

We have, however, passed that stage. Today, no one questions the need for educating women. Women have entered the job market and demonstrated their capabilities. No one insists any longer that a woman's place is in the home.

Today, women, who make up roughly half the population, are a productive part of society. They are the center of concern of governmental officials and others who are anxious and ready to safeguard their rights and grant them numerous other privileges. Many conferences and discussions on ways and means to highlight the role of working women and to provide them with working opportunities as full partners to men have taken place. The Ministry of Labor Department on Women Affairs is preparing for a conference on the role of working women in society. To learn more about the conference, its goals, and the countries taking part in it, we interviewed Mrs Rabiha Nasir, the department's director.

The conference will begin on April 6 and continue for 4 days. It is being held in cooperation with the United Nations Population Commission and the International Labor Organization. The conference will focus on the contribution of working women to Jordan's economy, the status of working women, family life, civil rights, and opportunities for education and vocational training for Jordanian women. In addition, the conference will study a proposal prepared by the Department on Women Affairs and a number of other topics. These include job behavioral requirements, the work of the Institute on Women Studies, voluntary organizations and the working woman.*

Each presentation will be followed by a discussion period. Participating delegations will be given sufficient time to present a brief review on the status of working women in their respective countries.

[Question] What is the goal of the conference?

[Answer] The goal of the conference is to learn firsthand about the problems facing working women and the factors that limit their participation in the job market, and to seek ways to make this participation possible. A second objective is to seek cooperation with working women organizations in Arab countries. Finally, the results of the conference will be used to assist the Department on Women Affairs in drawing up a program of action for working women in Jordan.

[Question] Who will participate in the conference?

[Answer] Participants include women organizations from Jordan, Iraq, Syria, North and South Yemen, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, the PLO, as well as delegations from UNESCO, UNICEF, the International Labor Organization, the Arab Labor Organization and a woman delegate representing the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

[Question] Can you tell us something about the accomplishments of the Department on Women Affairs?

[Answer] The department is new. Its function is to enhance the role of working women and to bring about legislative changes that are beneficial to working women to guarantee work security and grant them privileges heretofore denied. A more primary objective is to rally women, who make up approximately one-half of the population and whose productive power has not been tapped.

We are working to update the labor law, define the needs of working women and provide nursery schools. The Ministry of labor is the first to open a model nursery for the children of working women. This is just one way of encouraging women to enter the job market, secure that their children are well cared for.

*This paragraph is not clearly written in Arabic.

Since our laws are gender-free with respect to rights and obligations, and since working women are not fully aware of these rights and obligations, we are trying to educate them through the media. Our goal is to eradicate injustice and to work loyally together for the welfare of the country.

[Question] What about the department's future plans?

[Answer] The suffering of working women in Jordan is not entirely due to constitutional or legal inequities. These, as I mentioned earlier, make no distinction between the sexes. Many employers, however, exploit working women and discriminate against them in wages, training, and opportunities for promotion. We hope to end all this and bring about true equality. We also are encouraging acceptance of part-time work here in the ministry as well as in the business community to give women every opportunity to put their skills into use.

We will be working to increase cooperation and exchange expertise with other nations. We will apply whatever is practical and consonant with our social and economic needs. We will continue to look for more work opportunities for women. We intend to cooperate with all UN agencies that are concerned with women rights and work for equality with men.

We have begun working on a comprehensive 2-year plan. As soon as it is ready, we will present it to all parties concerned. This department will participate effectively in most international and Arab conferences and training institutes. We believe that such participation will benefit working women. We also plan to encourage women to join labor unions. The small number of Arab women in labor unions is due to social causes.

Our department has conducted a number of studies to learn about the problems of working women and to find ways to improve their productivity.

The director added that her department will soon establish an employment referral agency for matching prospective job candidates with appropriate jobs. The agency will act as an intermediary between the candidate and the employer. The director also said that her department will attempt to find work opportunities for women with firms that so far have refused women applicants. She plans to seek legislation to make this practice illegal.

Finally, the department will continue to provide supportive services to enable working women to perform their jobs in mental peace by providing nurseries and whatever is needed to make life at home and on the job more secure for them.

9063

CSO: 4802

JORDAN'S ENERGY PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS DISCUSSED

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Apr 80 p 5

[Interview With Jordanian Electric Authority Director, Dr Hisham al-Khatib, by Arab News Agency correspondent, Muhammad al-'Ibada, in Amman: "Guiding Consumption is a National Necessity; \$360 Million in Oil Imports for the Current Year; The Absence of Control and Public Awareness are Causes of the Problem"]

[Text] In the absence of complete policies to guide consumption and control the use of energy in Jordan, the financial burdens on the national economy have increased to the point that the price we pay for oil imports exceeds all our country's exports. In addition to that, it consumes a portion of our Gross National Product. Continuation of this policy would mean that we are committing suicide in the Japanese manner.

In the startling figures, we paid about \$6 million for imported oil in 1970; this year, we are paying an estimated \$360 million.

If we take into consideration the fact that the prices of oil are on the rise, and that our local needs are increasing, we arrive at the earlier truth, namely that we are undertaking a process of suicide. So that we may save ourselves from this fate, the government has decided to begin to remedy this developing dangerous situation. Thus, it raised the slogan of guiding consumption, and began a series of regulatory and pricing measures in order to transform this slogan into working reality. It did this, so that this state of infinitely unwise and unguided consumptive neglect may come to an end, and so that we may begin to build our national economy on solid ground.

This new Jordanian reality upon which the government is working demands more measures to overcome the energy crisis through regulation, pricing, taxes or guidance to redistribute the national wealth in a way which suits the new reality and the new aspirations.

The Director General of the Electric Authority

So that we may provide insight into the energy crisis as it really is in Jordan, especially that aspect of it which is connected with oil and

electricity, we turned to one of the most eminent Arab experts in the field of energy. He is Dr of Engineering Hisham al-Khatib who worked as an Arab expert in the field of energy for the Arab Fund for Development. He also wrote a book in English on the energy crisis, which a British publishing house published at its own expense in view of the importance of the book. He has written a great many scientific studies on this topic in many international specialized journals. Dr al-Khatib is presently acting as director general for the Jordanian Electric Authority.

Energy in Jordan

[Question] What is the energy situation in Jordan?

[Answer] The energy situation in Jordan is characterized by the following three principal aspects:

--The non-existence of a local source of energy up until now, which means the importation of all our energy needs.

--The allocation of a large portion of the GNP for the importation of fuels. This portion will reach 12 percent in 1980. This is among the highest rates in the world.

--Rapid growth of the economy. The GNP grew at an unadjusted average rate of 10 percent annually during the last ten years. This is one of the highest rates of economic growth in the world, and is generally accompanied by an even higher increase in demand for energy.

In view of the fact that the Jordanian economy, to the present, has not reached the stage of maturity, and in the absence of an applied policy of guiding consumption and controlling energy use, the burdens of fuel imports will gradually increase in the future, as prices rise and demand increases.

The Size of the Problem

[Question] What is the size of the energy problem in Jordan?

[Answer] The energy situation in Jordan does not call for optimism, as the consumption of energy is on continual increase, in spite of the increasing rise in the price of oil. While our estimated consumption of oil in 1972 was \$11 million, it has risen to \$360 million in 1980, while the ratio of imported energy to total exports was 31 percent in 1972, it has grown today to over 134 percent. This is in spite of the fact that our exports have increased from \$35 million in 1972 to \$234 million this year. The size of this problem becomes clear when we learn that the total GNP does not exceed \$3.1 billion, of which energy consumes 12 percent.

Indeed, our petroleum imports this year will exceed by one and one half times the sum of the exports of all goods. Likewise, the demand for energy has grown an average annual rate of 15 percent during the last 10 years, while national income has grown by an average of 10 percent. In

other words, the rate of expansion in the demand for energy over the rate of growth in the national income has been 1.5. This matter is extremely critical, as this index is supposed to be less than 1.0 on a world-wide basis. In the developing countries, it is 1.0. But in our country it exceeds that, and herein lies the problem which threatens the national economy.

The Relative Proportions of Energy Use

Transportation: Jordan 50 percent; industrial nations, 26 percent.

Industry: Jordan, 21 percent; industrial nations, 38 percent.

Home and Commercial Uses: Jordan, 15 percent, industrial nations, 21 percent.

Electric Power Generation: Jordan, 14 percent; industrial nations, 25 percent.

[Figures as published. Jordan's percentages correctly add up to 100. But industrial nations add up to 110 instead of 100.]

From the table it is clear that the transportation sector currently accounts for around half of the energy consumption, while the proportion is much less in almost all the nations of the world. This is in spite of the fact that Jordan is a relatively small country with no need for long trips.

The rise in our consumption of energy for the purpose of transportation results from the weakness of the public transportation sector, the large fleets of trucks in Jordan, and the relatively great requirements of air transport. However, there is undoubtedly a great deal of waste in this area outside of the private sector.

Overcoming the Problem

[Question] What are the ways of overcoming Jordan's serious problem in the field of energy?

[Answer] The government has begun to adopt sound regulatory and pricing measures which are certain to produce results in the short and long run. However, there is a need to augment these measures by way of raising the customs duty on vehicles of transportation uneconomical in their use of fuel, and all the many luxuries which consume energy, like air conditioners, and so on.

I have always believed that pricing policy is ideal for limiting extravagance and waste in energy consumption. However, it is clear that its results in Jordan may be limited as a consequence of rapid economic growth, the great improvement in the income of the individual, and the limited public awareness of the energy problems. Therefore, the problem requires supplementary measures, such as:

1--Assurance that the projects included in the next Five Year Plan are projects economical in energy consumption and that the projected operation of these projects has taken into account Jordan's real costs in terms of importation of energy. This cost is much higher than the price of fuels in the local market.

2--Waging war on waste in the use of energy in the public and private sectors in the area of transportation.

3--Additional customs measures.

4--Pursuing ways of constructing buildings economical in heating and cooling.

5--Creating public awareness of the methods of limiting and controlling consumption.

6--Encouraging uses of alternative forms of energy in the individual domains where possible, such as solar hot water heaters.

The Future of Energy

[Question] What is the future of energy in Jordan?

[Answer] The future of energy in Jordan is a part of the story of the future of energy in the world. Indeed, great hopes have been generated in the world in recent years regarding the possibility of a solution to the world energy problem by means of exploiting solar power, wind power, seawave power, and nuclear fission and fusion. All these hopes have been greatly exaggerated, and are unrealistic or uneconomical.

Without getting into technical details, the fact is that the future of energy in the world by the end of the century will not differ from today's near total dependence on petroleum, gas, and bituminous coal, together with a small reliance on nuclear and hydroelectric power. Consequently, this will mean greater dependence on Arab oil, and an increase in its importance, especially in the eighties.

The future outlook for energy in Jordan will not be any different, in view of our lack of gas and bituminous coal, and the impracticality of nuclear power in Jordan in the near future due to its very high investment costs and our modest needs. Thus the energy sector in Jordan will grow more dependent in the foreseeable future on imported oil.

Alternative Sources

[Question] Do there not exist for us our own sources of energy, and what are the possibilities of developing them?

[Answer] It is necessary to double our efforts on a new and rapid scale in drilling for oil in Jordan. This is a matter with which all states of the world where oil has hitherto not been discovered are concerned.

The sources of hydroelectric power in Jordan are indeed minimal, and the plan to exploit them is very limited in relation to our need for energy.

We have in the district of al-Qatranah good sources of shale oil, and this matter is receiving attention and interest. However, world technological development in the extraction and exploitation of this type of oil is still in its initial stages. Nevertheless, world attention to it increases along with the prices of oil. Subsequently, technology and economics are right now passing through a phase of development which may lead to a change in the view toward it, locally and worldwide, in the near future. We are keeping track of this.

Electric Power Consumption

[Question] What is the situation with regard to electrical power?

[Answer] Electric power consumption in Jordan is increasing rapidly at a rate of 30 percent annually, i.e., about double the average rate of increase in the consumption of fuels. This is a natural matter which all of the world's nations are experiencing. It is expected that by the end of the century, half our energy requirements in Jordan, and about 60 percent of the requirements of the developed world, will be devoted to the generation of electricity.

The average rate of individual consumption of electric power in Jordan exceeded 400 kilowatt hours during the year 1979. This figure is expected to double during the next five years. The average rate of this consumption is a little higher than it is developing countries. However, it does not exceed one-fifth of the world average of 2,000 kilowatt hours per person annually. Indeed, this gives an idea of the long road which is still ahead of us in the field of development.

However, the average annual rate of growth in the use of electricity in Jordan in recent years, which is 30 percent, exceeds by five or six times the average annual rate of world growth. To meet this growth, the Jordanian power authority is planning to complete the al-Hussein energy station in al-Zarqa' and to raise its current capacity of 135 megawatts with the addition of four new generating units. The capacity of each of these units is 66 megawatts. The first new unit will be operative in 1981, followed by a new unit every year. Likewise, planning is underway for the construction of a very large generating station in the city of al-'Aqabah, cooled by sea waters, so as to be in operation in the year 1985.

This expansion requires a development of the national electric transmission network whose construction is now under way from Amman to the south of Jordan, passing through all the cities and important industrial projects in the south. It will reach the city of al-'Aqabah around the year 1984. It will, therefore, link all the important cities and villages of the kingdom from the north to the south with a single network, which will improve the continuity of the current and the economy of electric power.

MEASURES TO INSURE FOOD SUPPLY OUTLINED

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Apr 80 p 3

[Article: "Foodstuffs Reserve Increased to Six Months"]

[Text] Mr Muhammad al-Saqqaf, undersecretary of supply, gave a lecture to participants in a program of awakening and guidance prepared by the ministry of supply for controllers of quality and prices. He dealt with the role of the ministry in the service of the citizen, the achievements which it has effected during the past few years, and the unforeseen crises which have arisen during the past two months. He stressed that the ministry will move quickly in attempting to prevent similar crises. It has adopted the measures necessary to remedy any deficiency anticipated for any food item. The ministry will have a reserve of all goods in which it deals sufficient for a period of somewhere between three and four months. Indeed, the ministry is now planning to increase this reserve to six months. For the sake of this objective, the necessary measures are now under way to increase the holding capacity of the silos and warehouses. Likewise, the undersecretary reaffirmed that the ministry is planning to build an automated bakery in the governate of Irbid, as well as al-Balqa' and the south.

The undersecretary also dealt with the efforts of the ministry to raise the level of service in the system of quality and price control. He announced that contacts are now in progress to equip the automobiles of the system with wireless communications equipment now that the ministry has acquired the approval of the pertinent authorities. This will contribute speed to the response to complaints of the citizens, and save time, effort and money. The undersecretary emphasized the importance of vigilance of the controller in carrying out his functions, and of his conducting his business in a cooperative, selfless and courteous manner.

9614

CSO: 4802

ACHIEVEMENTS OF AGRICULTURE DIRECTORATE CITED

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Apr 80 p 3

[Article: "The Achievements of the al-Balqa' Directorate of Agriculture During the Past Year"]

[Text] The annual report received by the ministry of agriculture from the department of agriculture of the al-Balqa' governorate on its activities during the past year states that the number of indigenous and modern beehives in the governorate rose to 1098 hives which produced 1898 kg of honey. The number of rabbits reached 3,085; pigeons, 18105; geese, 1,244; ducks, 180; and turkeys 1483 pairs.

Similarly, the number of chicken meat poultry farms in the governorate during the past year reached 89 farms, the capacity of which was 456,000 birds. They produced 1.64 million birds. As for the number of egg producing chicken farms, they amounted to 28 farms with a capacity of 295,000 birds which produced 68.4 million eggs. The number of hen [farms] was three, with a capacity of 28,000 birds, which produced 5.76 million eggs.

With regard to field surveys under the project for developing select lands, acreage surveyed amounted to 8,281 dunums. The project committee has undertaken the planning for 1,668 dunums to be contoured. Likewise, 31,797 cubic meters of retaining walls have been [projected].

Winter crop acreage amounted to 21,610 dunums of wheat land; 2930 dunums, barley; 1,390 dunums, lentils; and 1,360 dunums, vetch.

Areas planted with fruit trees amounted to 3,651 dunums. The number of olive trees was 553,350; the number of oil presses, 5. As for grapevines, the area planted with these amounted to 77 dunums under irrigation, and 12,870 dunums unirrigated, with a [combined] production of 2,765,720 kilograms.

The agricultural guidance section of the department undertook 144 agricultural inspections and held 56 study sessions and meetings. Agricultural advisers undertook 200 field tours and 157 field visits. These study sessions, meetings, and visits included lectures and instructions on modern scientific methods and the best means of cultivation and of fighting insects and various agricultural epidemics.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES IN DISTRICT OF AL-ZARQA' OUTLINED

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Apr 80 p 3

[Article: "Comprehensive Study of Agriculture in District of al-Zarqa'"]

[Text] The department of agriculture regional office in al-Zarqa' conducted a comprehensive study of agriculture in the district including forests, fruit trees, winter grain, artesian wells, animal resources as well as a project to develop the district's highlands.

According to figures contained in the study, the district has 38,147 donums of natural forests and 17,763 donums of man-made forests, in addition to 20,871 donums of land suitable for forestation. The department of agriculture is currently foresting this portion of the district's land in stages depending on the availability of seedlings and the department's manpower resources. The study also reveals that the district has 36,000 donums of olive orchards, 6500 donums of vineyards, 11,300 donums of almond orchards, 800 donums of apple trees, 600 donums of fig trees, 1200 donums of pomegranates and 150 donums of date trees.

Further figures in the study indicate that the district has 72,500 donums under grain cultivation this year. The estimated crop figures are: wheat, 3000 tons; barley, 1,400 tons; lentils, 130 tons.

According to the study, the district has 173 artesian wells. Other statistics appearing in the study indicate that the project to develop the district's highlands encompass 12,607 donums and that it will benefit 360 farmers. To date, 91,573 olive seedlings have been distributed [to the farmers] and 180,000 cubic meters of terrace walls to prevent soil erosion have been erected. The walls will help to retain water and make tree growing possible.

The study further reveals that there are 134 poultry farms in the district providing an estimated 4,500 tons of poultry meat annually. In addition, 32 chicken farms provide 115 million eggs annually. The district's two chicken hatcheries produce 74,000 chicks per year.

Other figures included in the study put the number of milk cows in the district at 3,022 with an annual production of 5,000 tons of milk. Annual beef production is given as 100 tons. The district is reported to have 50,000 head of sheep producing 1,235 tons of milk and 200 tons of meat annually. The number of goats is given as 26,903. Goat milk production is estimated at 672 tons annually and goat meat production is given as 75 tons per year.

9063

CSO: 4802

PRESIDENT SIGNS LAWS, DECREES, MAKES APPOINTMENTS

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 8 May 80 p 1

[Text] President Bourguiba conferred with Mr Mohamed Mzali, prime minister, yesterday morning at the Palais de Carthage. At the end of the talk, Prime Minister Mzali made the following statement:

"The president of the republic gave me general lines concerning certain questions of foreign policy. I also presented to his excellency the agenda of the Council of Ministers which will meet tomorrow at the Government Palace in the Casbah, under the chairmanship of the chief of state.

"In addition, President Bourguiba was pleased to sign a number of laws and decrees, including two decrees involving the creation of municipalities in Zriba (Governorate of Zaghouan) and in Jerissa (Governorate of Kef). The president also signed decrees appointing Mr Nouredine Fenniche as director of Local Public Organizations with the Ministry of the Interior, Mr Abderrahim Zouari as director of Regional Administration with the Ministry of the Interior, and Mr Abdelmajid Salmoun as director of Central Unity for Urban Programs.

"Finally, the chief of state signed a decree convening voters for the municipal elections on Sunday 25 May 1980."

9181

CSO: 4400

TUNISIA

NEW GOVERNORS APPOINTED, BIOGRAPHIES GIVEN

Communique Issued

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 7 May 80 p 1

[Text] President Bourguiba received Mr Driss Guiga yesterday morning at the Palais de Carthage.

The minister of the interior announced at the end of the session that he had given an account concerning the situation in the country and concerning the progress of the Ministry of the Interior's services.

"During this interview," Mr Driss Guiga also announced, "the president of the republic decided on a change in the corps of governors."

On account of this decision, the minister of the interior issued the following communique:

"By presidential decree:

"Mr M'hadheb Rouissi is named governor of Tunis in place of Mr Abbes Mohsen.

"Mr Mohamed Boulabyar is named governor of Nabeul in place of Mr Abderrahim Zouari.

"Mr Moncef Ben Gharbia is named governor of Mahdia in place of Mr Nejib Drissi.

"Mr Ahmed Ben Jamia is named governor of Gabes in place of Mr Mohamed Jegham.

"Mr Mohamed Berrejeb is named governor of Gafsa in place of Mr M'hamed Abbes."

In addition, Mr M'hamed Abbes, former governor of Gafsa, was appointed to duties within the headquarters of the Ministry of the Interior.

Mr Abbes Mohsen, former governor of Tunis, was also appointed to duties within the headquarters of the same ministry.

The outgoing governors were named to other offices.

Governor of Tunis

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 7 May 80 p 4

[Text] Mr M'hadheb Rouissi, who was just named governor of Tunis, was born on 15 January 1942 in Degache (Governorate of Gafsa). He holds a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree from the National School of Administration.

Administrative advisor to the Ministry of Planning from July to December 1967, in 1968 he was appointed research attache at the National Institute of Productivity.

In 1969, he was director of the Regional Center of Productivity of the North (Beja, Jendouba, le Kef), from 1970 to 1973, he was assistant general manager of the National Institute of Productivity and Business Management.

Administrator representing Tunisia at the Center for Industrial Research for the countries of the League of Arab States, from 1973 to 1979, Mr Rouissi was the founding director of the Tunisian Company of Consultations and Mediations, in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.

From 1975 to 1979, he was representative director of the Bureau of Technical and Economic Research.

Mr Rouissi has been, since this year, the general manager and the founder of the Society of Food Industries of Gafsa.

Mr Rouissi has belonged to the party since a young age and is a member of the Destour section of Degache.

Governor of Nabeul

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 7 May 80 p 4

[Text] Mr Mohamed Boulabyar, who was just appointed governor of Nabeul, was born on 14 September 1933 in Dai Chaabane (Governorate of Nabeul).

He pursued his secondary studies at the Sadiki school where he obtained an end of studies diploma and the baccalaureat before entering the Advanced Teacher Training School where he obtained his end of studies diploma (mathematics option).

Mr Boulabyar taught in primary and secondary schools from 1956 to 1966. He was named headmaster at Kef and (1970-1975) after having assumed from 1967 to 1970 the office of regional director of primary education. From 1975 to 1977, he was the regional representative for secondary education for the governorates of the south.

Director of the National Office of University Works (ONOU) from 1977 to 1979, he was, since this date, children's director at the Ministry of Youth and Sport.

Mr Boulabyar joined the party in 1956. He was president of the school youth at Kef and at Nabeul from 1970 to 1975 and chairman of the cultural committee of Nabeul from 1971 to 1976.

Mr Boulabyar is married and the father of a son. He is a commander of the order of the republic.

Governor of Mahdia

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 7 May 80 p 2

[Text] Mr Moncet Ben Gharbia, who was just appointed governor of Mahdia, was born in Bizerte on 4 July 1945.

After primary and secondary education in the town where he was born, he pursued his university studies at the Faculty of Law and Economics and Political Science of Tunis where he obtained his bachelor's degree in law, then at the National School of Administration, where he obtained a master's degree.

In January 1970, he was assigned to the legal department of the Ministry of Justice and participated, for this reason, in the negotiation of several judicial clauses.

From October 1973 to April 1974, he was cabinet attache to the Ministry of the Interior. And from April 1974 to January 1975, he was responsible for the sub-direction of regulations at the Ministry of the Interior. From 1975 until his recent appointment, Mr Ben Gharbia was chairman and managing director of the Regional Transport Company of Bizerte.

Mr Ben Gharbia joined the party at a young age and was a militant in the ranks of several youth organizations (Tunisian Scouts, Tunisian Youth Union, UGET [General Union of Students of Tunisia]...).

Mr Ben Gharbia was president of the "Hassen Nouri" Destour section of Bizerte and vice president of the municipality of Bizerte.

He is a Chevalier in the Order of the Republic, married and without children.

Governor of Gafsa

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 7 May 80 p 2

[Text] Mr Mohamed Ltaief, who was just appointed governor of Gafsa, was born in Sousse on 16 June 1941.

He has a bachelor's degree in public law from the Faculty of Law and Economics and Political Science of Tunis.

From 1974 to 1975, he was cabinet attache to the Ministry of the Interior, from 1975 to 1977, he was first delegate from the governorate of Nabeul and, from 1977 until his recent appointment, he was chairman and managing director of the Society for Tourist Development.

Mr Ltaief joined the party at a young age and was a militant in the ranks of the School Youth and in the UGET.

From 1956 to 1967, he was a member of the Administrative Committee of the UGET, chairman of the Council of the Faculty of Law and member of the National Council of Destour Students.

From 1967 to 1971, deputy secretary general of the UGET, responsible for the foreign sections and from 1972 to 1974, he was deputy secretary general of the UTOJ (Tunisian Union of Youth Organizations), responsible for external relations.

Married and the father of three children, Mr Ltaief is a Chevalier in the Order of Independence and an Officer in the Order of the Republic.

Governor of Gabes

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 7 May 80 p 2

[Text] Mr Ahmed Ben Jemia, who was just appointed governor of Gabes, was born in Tunis on 11 June 1938.

After secondary education at the Alaoui high school, he pursued his university studies at the University of Paris-Sorbonne, where he obtained a bachelor's degree and a master's of arts degree.

Professor of secondary education in Beja, Carthage and then at Sadiki School, from 1964 to 1974, he was from 1974 secondary-school inspector before becoming chief inspector in 1976. From 1976 to 1979, he was regional representative for secondary education in succession in Beja and Sfax.

From 1979 until his recent appointment, Mr Ben Jemia was director of youth at the Ministry of Youth and Sport.

Member of the party since 1959, Mr Ben Jemia holds responsibilities within several Destour sections both in France and in Tunisia.

He has been a militant in the ranks of the UGET since 1960 and in 1961 was elected president of the Association of Moslem Students of North Africa (Caen section).

In 1964, he was charged by the Coordination Committee of Beja with directing the regional section of school youth and in 1970 he was elected secretary general of the UGET section in Paris. Mr Ben Jemia is married and the father of two children. He is a Chevalier in the Order of the Republic.

Governor of Sidi-Bouzyd

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 7 May 80 p 2

[Text] Mr M'hamed Ben Rejeb, who was just appointed governor of Sidi-Bouzyd, was born on 7 October 1943 in Kelibia.

After having completed his primary and secondary education, he took courses at the Faculty of Sciences of Tunis. In 1965, he entered the National Guard and was then able to complete his university studies at the advanced school for police in Belgium, then at the higher institute for police in Caire and finally at the advanced school for police in Paris. He also underwent training at the International Police Academy in Washington. In 1970, he was responsible for the southern frontiers to Medenine and in 1973 he was charged with the western frontiers before becoming, in 1975, frontiers officer for the National Guard General Directorate, thus he was responsible for all of Tunisia's land and maritime frontiers.

In 1978, he was named public safety officer to the National Guard General Directorate, then in 1979, inspector general of the National Guard departments, a post which he held until his appointment as the head of the governorate of Sidi-Bouzyd.

Mr M'hamed Ben Rejeb was born into a Destour family of longstanding. He has belonged to the party since his earliest youth.

Chevalier in the Order of the Independence and Officer in the Order of the Republic and holder of the National Guard's Medal of Honor, Mr M'hamed Ben Rajeb is married and the father of two children.

9181

CSO: 4400

TUNISIA

MATHARI NAMED GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL BANK

Communique Issued

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 9 May 80 p 1

[Text] The presidency of the republic issued the following communique:

"By virtue of a decree dated 8 May 1980 the president of the republic appointed Mr Abdelaziz Mathari as governor of the Central Bank in place of Mr Mohamed Ghenima who was appointed to another office."

Biographic Details

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 9 May 80 p 4

[Text] Mr Abdelaziz Mathari was born on 2 November 1922 in La Goulette. He pursued his university studies at the Institute for High Business Studies of Paris and underwent training at the Enskildabank in Sweden.

When he returned to Tunis, he held the office of chef de cabinet for President Bourguiba then head of the government.

From January 1957 to March 1971, he was chairman and managing director of the Tunisian Bank Society. During this same time, he concurrently and successively held the positions of chairman and managing director of ICM (Chemical Industries of the Maghreb) of the SNI (National Investment Company, now the Economic Development Bank of Tunisia) and of the COFITOUR (Financial and Tourist Company).

In March 1971, Mr Abdelaziz Mathari was named as the head of the SIFIDA (Investment and Financing Society for Development in Africa) in Rome then in Geneva.

Before his appointment as the head of the Ministry of Finance on 27 December 1977, Mr Mathari managed the Arab Investment Guaranty Company, which he founded himself, in Kuwait.

Mr Mathari was elected a member of the central committee of the Destour Socialist Party at the Xth Congress in September 1979. He is a Commander of the Order of the Independence and a Grand Officer of the Order of the Republic.

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DATE FILMED

24 June 1980

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